

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0617

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SHUM, UN

SUBJECT: CHILE AT 31ST UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 0325; (B) USUN 0164

1. FONMIN CARVAJAL ASKED ME TO CALL AFTERNOON JAN 28. HE GAVE ME MEMORANDUM ON HRC MEETING (SEPTTEL TRANSMITS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF MEMORANDUM). MEMORANDUM BRIEFLY DESCRIBES CHILEAN EFFORT TO RESTORE MORE NORMAL CONDITIONS SPECIFICALLY THROUGH RELEASE OF ASYLEES AND DETAINEES, NOTES THAT "ENEMIES OF CHILE" WILL AGAIN TRY TO INTRODUCE POLITICS INTO DISCUSSION WITH AIM OF ATTACKING CHILE ON BASIS OF FALSE INFORMATION, AND REQUESTS USG SUPPORT FOR CHILEAN DEL IN PREVENTING MEETING FROM BEING TURNED INTO "INSTRUMENT OF POLITICAL ACTION AGAINST CHILE."

2. I DESCRIBED STATE OF PLAY REGARDING POSSIBLE WEO RESOLUTION ALONG LINES OF REF (B) NOTED I WAS NOT SPEAKING UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, AND ASKED WHETHER I COULD REPORT THAT CARVAJAL BELIEVED GOC COULD GO ALONG WITH SUCH A FACT-FINDING NON-POLITICAL APPROACH, WHICH WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE TO INCLUDE
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PROVISION FOR SENDING SOME KIND OF STUDY GROUP TO CHILE.

3. CARVAJAL ASSENTED TO THE IDEA IN PRINCIPLE. WAY TO POSSIBLE STUDY GROUP, SAID PRESIDENT PINOCHET NOW APPEARS DISPOSED TO ACCEPT A "SERIOUS" BODY, DEPENDING ON THE MEMBERSHIP. IDEALLY, IT SHOULD BE COMPOSED OF INDIVIDUALS FROM "AMERICAN" STATES-- I.E. OAS MEMBERS. CARVAJAL OPINED, THOUGH LESS ENTHUSIASTICALLY, THAT GOC COULD ALSO AGREE TO WESTERN EUROPEANS, AND MIGHT GO AS FAR AS ACCEPTING COUNTRIES SIGNATORY TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS--PROVIDED INVESTIGATING BODY WOULD BE SERIOUS. (WE NOTED THIS MIGHT INCLUDE USSR; CARVAJAL BLANCHED).

4. I SAID I WOULD BRING CARVAJAL'S COMMENTS TO DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION AS A HELPFUL CONTRIBUTION TO WORKING OUT THIS PROBLEM, AND SUGGESTED THAT WE, OR OUR DELEGATIONS, COULD BE IN TOUCH ABOUT TACTICS AS NEEDED.

5. COMMENT. CARVAJAL'S POSITION, TENTATIVE THOUGH IT IS, SEEMS TO REPRESENT SOFTENING OF HARD LINE AGAINST STUDY GROUPS HE TOOK JANUARY 15 (REF A). POSSIBLY THE CHILEAN DELEGATION TO THE UN HAS CONVINCED THE GOC THAT AN UNCOMPROMISING POSITION WOULD NOT SERVE CHILEAN INTERESTS.

6. I SUGGEST US DEL BE AUTHORIZED TO FOLLOW UP WITH CHILEAN DEL, WITH EMBASSY SUPPORTING FROM SANTIAGO TO HELP INUSRE AGAINST DISTORTION, AND THAT STRONG ATTEMPT BE MADE TO GET NON-POLITICAL, NON-CONDEMNATORY FACT-FINDING RESOLUTION PASSED WITH STUDY GROUP MEMBERSHIP GOC COULD ACCEPT. THIS GOAL MAY BE UNATTAINABLE, BUT EFFORT IS WORTH MAKING.
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